

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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MANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

A Proper Test.

Popular majorities are by no means infallible. The old maxim, "Vox Populi, Vox Dei," like most proverbs, is only partially true. As a matter of convenience and justice in the large, we rest the law upon decisions of a majority of voters, expressed at the polls. Such decisions may be founded in justice and right, or upon narrow prejudice, misrepresentations of facts, partial statements, or downright malicious lies.

Frivolous and improper tests sway voters to one side or the other; shrewd statements mislead them, or the special needs of the office to be filled are forgotten.

Among tests there are some which are improper; such as a man's religious belief, his standing in society or business, his relation to secret societies, or his personal habits, where these do not effect his integrity.

Does one abstain entirely from the use of liquor? Does he refuse to base his popularity upon money freely spent at the saloons? Who believes that such abstinence unfits him for office, or should be punished by a refusal of support at the polls?

Per contra, a moderate use of liquor is scarcely ground for proscription upon the part of temperance advocates. Such moderate use is not inconsistent with good character, and a faithful discharge of duty. Only when used in excess can liquor be said to disqualify one for office.

If these positions are just, it follows, that putting aside political bias, capability, honesty, and faithfulness are the only proper tests for office.

The best men of all parties are undecided as to how far the political bias shall govern in choosing men for official position. By common consent merely clerical offices, which are appointive, may be filled without regard to party. Among elective offices, Judgeships in New York have recently been permitted to come under the same ruling. Other offices are strictly partisan, and must be filled by party conventions. National questions require that the party should be kept intact at all elections. Personal wishes must be subordinated to party interest.

It follows that the triumph of Republican principles requires the holding of strictly Republican primaries; that those who attend are, with some limitations, in honor bound to support the nominations. Such a primary should represent the fair judgment of the party, and should decide as to where partisanship should begin, and where it should end. Roughly, we should say, that Judges, Inspectors, and Clerks of election; Freeholders and Town Committeemen, should be members of the party making the nominations. The Assessor, Collector, Overseer of the Poor, Township Clerk, an Justice of the Peace, may be of either party, so only that they shall be capable, honest, and faithful men. Such offices are not political in their nature, and should command the confidence and support of the whole community.

The adoption of the rules suggested will debar some good men from office upon the Township Committee, but will, we believe, do much to allay party strife and compel the election of men upon a just review of their merits. Above all, it will in a measure prevent the manufacture of private tickets, which is piracy upon the party.

The Cost of Water.

There has been some discussion in Bloomfield about the price which the township has agreed to pay for our public water supply, and some individuals have insisted that it would have been cheaper for the township to have acquired wells and put down its own pipes and constructed its own water works and pumping stations.

This opinion has been held by a very few persons, and they have never, so far as we can learn, made any examination or estimate of the actual cost of such

works. Besides that, it would be difficult to know just where we could secure the supply of good water, which is the main thing to be desired.

Ever since Bloomfield made its contract with the Orange Company the people of Montclair have been anxious to secure water for that township. Nearly a year ago they began a move in the matter and appointed a committee of fifteen citizens to examine into the subject and report the results of their investigation. This committee made their report to the tax payers this week.

They recommended the taking of water from wells sunk adjacent to Verona Lake, so that the water would be filtered from the lake into the wells, that a reservoir be built upon the mountain, into which the water should be pumped from the wells, and that pipes be laid and hydrants be erected in all the streets in the districts bounded by the township lines on the east and west, by Chestnut street on the north and Cedar avenue on the south. This system complete, exclusive of the cost of real estate and mill privileges, was estimated at \$95,879.

Here is an outlay of nearly one hundred thousand dollars at the start, and there is no way of determining how much more expense will be involved before the work is complete.

The city of Orange refused to unite with East Orange in procuring water, and decided to have an independent supply. The actual cost has been more than double what was expected and the water is no better, if it is as good, as that furnished to East Orange and Bloomfield.

It is very doubtful if two hundred thousand dollars will enable Montclair to secure an adequate and satisfactory water supply; and after all, taking it from Verona Pond is an experiment.

The greatest care must be exercised to keep its sources free from pollution, and a drought might affect them very seriously.

The expenditure of so much money means added debt and a heavy charge for running expenses. All these difficulties Bloomfield has escaped. We did not borrow a dollar, our total annual expense is measured by the number of our hydrants.

If the water should prove unwholesome or the supply inadequate we need not pay for it, and have lost nothing. At the end of ten years we may be able to make a more favorable contract. These facts prove that we have acted wisely and well in this matter.

The Legislature.

[From our Special Correspondent at Trenton.]

On Thursday of last week Mr. Gangwer introduced Assembly Bill No. 254, providing that no person shall be compelled to work on certain specified days, which the bill provides shall be legal holidays. Good Friday is included.

Whether this was introduced by Mr. Gangwer to prevent the holding of a session this year, as was the case last year, on Good Friday, or whether his experience last year causes him to sympathize with his fellow sufferers, we will leave him to tell when he is given the floor to explain the object of the bill.

The House last week Thursday disposed only of routine business, and no action was taken on any of the bills previously mentioned in your columns.

On Monday evening Mr. Banks introduced Assembly Bill No. 255, allowing townships of 6,000 population to elect two freeholders and one additional for each extra 3,000.

This will no doubt be strongly opposed by the Newark members.

Mr. Corbin introduced Assembly Bill No. 260, allowing townships to appropriate \$2000 yearly for the purchase of crushed stone to be placed on public roads.

On Monday evening the Governor sent a message to the House announcing that he had signed Assembly Bill No. 5, Mr. Underhill's school bond bill; and that he had filed, without approval (that is he allowed it to become a law, although he would not sign it), Assembly Bill No. 36, Mr. Potter's bill to divide townships into wards.

This action by the Governor leads to the belief that he thinks Mr. Potter's bill unconstitutional. If he does, it is probably because the bill is limited in its effect to townships in which 1500 votes have been polled at any election or may hereafter be polled at any election.

In the Hightstown Case last year the Supreme Court decided that any law which would be operative in one town having a certain number of inhabitants, and would not go into effect in an adjoining town similar in its general character but having less inhabitants, was unconstitutional and void.

Let the people of Bloomfield take satisfaction in the thought that perhaps the East Orange people have not gained anything in attempting to shut them out from enjoying the benefits of this act.

Tuesday was a field-day in the Senate, the fight being on Senator Chase's bill, Senate 42, providing that no railroad bridge should be built over any navigable stream between this and any other State without its plans were first submitted to and approved by the Legislature.

Senator Chase opened the ball shortly after the morning session began, and endeavored to show the damage which

would follow the bridging of Arthur Kill. Senator Nichols opposed the bill as being in the interest of a selfish corporation. It would be a step backward, he said, and would bring back the era of corruption that existed before the passage of the general railroad law.

After a short speech by Senator Her- ring, in favor of the bill, Senator Fish took the floor in opposition to the bill, only giving up when it came time for dinner.

Although complaining of a severe cold, he made an able and vigorous protest against the passage of the bill, declaring it not only unjust but unconstitutional.

The afternoon was taken up with speeches by Senator Brinkerhoff in favor of the bill, and by Senator Vanderbilt in opposition to it.

The day closed without any vote being taken.

A despatch from Washington announced that the Congressional Committee on Commerce had reported Tuesday morning to the lower House of Congress, a bill authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Arthur Kill and establishing the same as a post-road, and that the bill was put on the House Calendar.

On Wednesday the railroad fight was resumed in the Senate, Senator Gardner, of Atlantic, an insurance and real agent, and probably the ablest and most forcible debater in the Senate, leading in an argument which occupied the larger portion of the morning session.

His argument, and that of Senator Griggs (President of the Senate) who followed him, was in favor of compelling railroads to find a terminus on the shores of New Jersey. In the afternoon, Senator Youngblood led the debate, and short speeches from other Senators made an evening session necessary, at which the bill passed, 11 to 5 Senator Fish voting against it, and five Senators being absent.

Influence of the Press.

To The Citizen:

An article in your issue of the 7th inst., headed "The Press," contained a few words in regard to the speech delivered by the Rev. Dr. Paxton at the Typothe- ate dinner on Jan. 18th.

You say that Dr. Paxton's language is unwise; and that the pulpit owes much to the fearlessness of the press.

From the speech I should judge that the gentleman knows in just what condition the press of to-day is situated. His opinions on this subject are those of many other men who desire only news in our daily papers. By news I mean facts—facts of such a character that a parent need not fear to put the newspaper into his children's hands.

I do not understand what you wish to infer when you state that Dr. Paxton's language is unwise. Is it because he did not state facts, or because he should have taken in consideration the place and company? No doubt he was mistaken when he said: "No man is really wiser for reading newspapers, or more ignorant if he don't see one in two months," for we know how much can be learned if a good newspaper is studied in the proper manner,—as a continuous history of the world's happenings. The rest of the quotation is fact.

I do not see in what respect the pulp- it owes so much to the daily press of to-day. It is surely not because the newspaper has the same object in view; for if it had, we would not see so much valuable space taken up in giving a description of a prize-fight or cocking-main, in which the majority of the readers are not interested, and merely mention the fact that somewhere a noted man delivered an oration. This you will find to be true in regard to most city papers.

The press can, and should be, an aid to the pulpit; but at the present time it is not to any extent worth mentioning.

What if a city paper does give a short account of the sermon of a noted pastor? Does it not also give (sometimes in the following column) a long account of a boxing match, or something else that is exactly opposite to what the sermon teaches?

There certainly are papers (though few, I am sorry to say) that are a great help to the pulpit. It is indeed a beautiful thought—the combined efforts of the press and the pulpit, in the endeavor to raise man to a higher standard of life and an acknowledgement of a just and living God. To make this thought a reality is possible; but can only be done by combined work and prayers of Christian people; thereby purifying and elevating all classes of society.

SENOR.

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1886. Calendar. 1886.

On Saturday, January 2, we shall commence the distribution of our most beautiful ornate- mented Calendar for 1886. The design is ex- ceedingly tasteful, its general delicacy and beauty being exceeded only by its utility. No well-regulated family can afford to be without a copy.

The Butter Market is very high in prices, but we are still selling our Elgin Creamery at 32 cts. per lb. We do not sell Oleomargarin. Put this down, as there are precious few stores that dare make the same announcement.

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